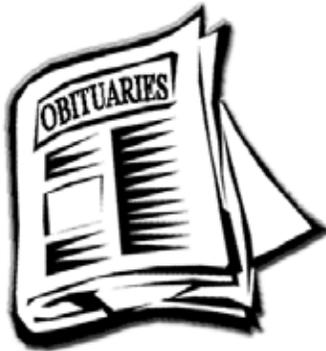


Dane County Area Genealogical Society News



Newspaper Nuggets: Going Beyond the Obituary Notice is the title of Katherine Sparks presentation on May 2nd



In this presentation, we will be exploring the many items found in historical newspapers that can enrich the story of our ancestor's lives. These items often go beyond, or may be a substitute for, the obituary notice. Finding our ancestor's name in a historical newspaper is often a daunting task. We will be looking at some of the methods for finding the newspapers associated with our ancestors, whether online or in repositories.

Katherine Sparks was born in Milwaukee, and has lived in Madison for the past 8 years. She has been doing genealogy for over 40 years since she was 16 years old. She currently serves as the Capital District Representative for the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.



April/2013

Volume 7, Issue 8

Regular DCAGS meetings are generally the first Thursday of each month at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent Street, Madison, Wisconsin beginning at 7 p.m.

*DCAGS Update:
The next DCAGS Governing Board meeting is set for Tuesday, June 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin Foundation 1848 University Avenue Madison, WI 53726-4090 We invite all members to attend.*

*Please join us!
Submit articles to the newspaper editor by the 3rd Tuesday of the month.*

On June 6th 2013, our speaker will be Jerry Apps. His topic will be: One-Room Country Schools: History and Recollections from Wisconsin



The 2013 Wisconsin State Genealogical Society Gene-A-Rama was attended by several of our members. Fay

Schoenemann recaps her experience: "My experience at Gene-A-Rama was very good. Paula is a very accomplished speaker, and she presented some excellent and helpful topics on getting a genealogical project organized. My son Mark and I also got a lot from the presentation on Pomerania (of special interest to us). I thought it was a good variety of topics. And the Syllabus was especially good this time, in that the notes followed the lectures quite well."

Pat and Bob Stone submitted their views about the conference: "Gene-A-Rama was a very good conference this year with good attendance with 175 attendees registered. The speakers presented quite helpful ideas especially Paula Stewart-Warren in her four sessions during the two days. George Findlen certainly gave the group an excellent idea of the kinds of things that can be found at the Wisconsin Historical Society. Two other speakers explained in detail what is available at the Area Research Centers in Wisconsin and the Minnesota Genealogy Society Library in St. Paul, MN. From the perspective of being a Wisconsin Society of SAR representative, it was a good conference as we gained contact information from seven potential members and met and talked with many other people about the Revolutionary War period and their ancestors.

Individual Highlights: Upcoming classes & Webinars page 2

President's message, Genealogy Fair notice and New Members page 3

Re-cap Antje Petty's presentation, Request from the program committee, Jerry Apps's books page 4 and 5

Request for committee chair page 6



Illinois State Genealogical Society offers free WEBINARS, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. All ISGS webinars are FREE and open to the public when they are presented live. For upcoming webinars: go to <http://ilgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=234> to learn more about the upcoming webinars and to register.

May 2013

Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective

- **Presenter:** Laura Prescott
- **Date:** Tuesday, May 14, 2013, 8:00 pm Central
- **Description:** Match historical events to an ancestor's life, or synchronize one ancestor's life events to another's using genealogical software as well as everyday software programs to create a graphic profile and timeline.
- **Register:** <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6182542135328835840>



Three-Hour Workshop

Sat., May 4 Irish Genealogy, Mary Wickersham and Sheila Northrop, Midwest Ancestor Research, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Workshop held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, Memorial Library, Room 126

Fee: \$35 for WHS or WSGS members, \$40 for non-members

Two-Hour Webinars

Wednesday, May 1

Archives Collections, Rick Pifer, Director of Public Services, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 11

Wisconsin in the Civil War,
Michael Edmonds, Deputy
Director of Library Archives,
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Ticket Info for above webinars:

\$25 for each one, Wisconsin Historical Society and Wisconsin State Genealogical Society members, \$30 for non-members

To Register: Contact Lori Bessler at 608-264-6519, via email at AskLibrary@wisconsinhistory.org or download a [printable registration form](#) (PDF 136 KB).



May 8-11, 2013 - Las Vegas, Nevada

Building New Bridges
2013 NGS Annual Conference

National Genealogy Society

http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info

FREE WEBINARS REGISTER at
www.FamilyTreeWebinars.com

Researching Your Roots in Rhode Island by Maureen Taylor. 5/1/2013

Blogging for Beginners by DearMYRTLE. 5/3/2013

Land Records Solve Research Problems by Mary Hill. 5/15/2013

Ten Hidden Resources Every Genealogist Should Know by Lisa Alzo. 5/22/2013

The New Frontier in Genetic Genealogy: Autosomal DNA Testing by Ugo Perego. 5/29/2013



August 21-24, 2013 - Fort Wayne, IN
**Journey through Generations
2013 FGS Annual Conference**

Federation of Genealogical Societies

<http://www.fgs.org/cpage.php?pt=43>

Read more about the program at

<https://www.fgsconference.org/program/>



2013 Bus Trip to FGS

The Minnesota Genealogical Society (MDS) is going to the **Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Conference** in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and you, too, can ride the bus!

The bus will leave Minnesota on August 20, 2013, returning August 25, and will have a stop near Madison, Wisconsin. If interested, please fill out the [registration form](#). Someone from MGS will contact you to make pick-up arrangements.

Family History Conference Saturday, May 18

8:15 am - Wausau Family History Center-5405 Rib Mountain Drive, Wausau, Wisconsin

Email: family.history.wi@gmail.com

Various speakers throughout the day plus the Family History Center will be open from 8:15 to 3:30 that day!

[Download: Family History Conference Wausau](#)



President's Message:

=====

I have a couple of things to share with you this week. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you share your thoughts with me or any member of your board.

I had the opportunity to attend the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society's Gene-A-Rama earlier this month in Wausau. I commend all of the folks involved with planning and executing. It was very well attended and for very good reason, all of the speakers were excellent and presented on topics of great interest and the hotel staff took great care of us. I hope all of you take the time to partake in an educational session of some sort. There are options for every schedule and budget from our monthly programs to federal conferences to the free webinars offered by the Wisconsin Historical Society among others.

On a related note of education, thank you to everyone that took the time to answer the survey we distributed last month. I wish we would have received a few more responses as we only heard from about 30% of the membership. The board reviewed the results at our last meeting and our impression is that overall the membership is pleased with the guidance we are providing the group. It does seem that there is a desire for more programs, both educational and social. Because we don't have the person power at this point to run more education programs we will do our best to make sure you are aware of opportunities offered by other organizations. There was also a call for more social programs. We look at this as an opportunity to address another concern that has been expressed, the desire to have younger folks involved. To meet both goals the board is planning to explore programming ideas that would involve the younger generations. If you have ideas we would welcome them! Thank you for your time. Walker walker@viridis.ws

Genealogy Fair 2014

We would like to hold our next DCAGS Genealogy Fair in Spring 2014.

If you would be interested in serving as chair, co-chair or as a member of the committee please let Walker Crawford know.

The former co-chairs will be happy to share materials from previous fairs and there are members who are willing to help.

Please join us so that we can again hold this popular event.

New Members New Members New Members

Our first new member this month is Rick Kiley of Madison. Rick is a Mac / Family Tree Maker user. He is researching the surnames of Boehm/Bohm, Czeselska, Gerofskily, Hickey, Karcyewski, Kiley/Kiely, Kratzke and Regan. Areas of research include Dane, Waupaca, New York, Wisconsin, Germany, Ireland and Poland.

Our second new member is Richard Kilmer, also of Madison. Richard is also a Family Tree Maker user. His list of surnames includes Aul (Auel), Ball, Ballweg, Benes (Benish), Bulin, Cejka (Shaker), Gates, Goetz, Gonzales, Griswald, Gunsolus, Hart, Harris, Havlik, Holcolm, Holub, Janecek, Jansky, Kelbel, Kilmer, Kopplin, Krueger, Lester, Levy, Lomicka, Mann, Morton, Roos, Seidl, Shaker, Spencer, Vitcenda, Westover, Winthrop, and Zimmermann. His research is geographically located in Dane, Juneau, Sauk, Vernon, Waushara counties, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Canada, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Netherlands, Poland and Spain.

If you would like to contact either of them please let Walker know and he will connect you. Welcome to both Richard and Rick!

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Antje Petty's presentation on researching German roots attracted an overflow audience at the April 2 meeting of DCAGS. Numerous visitors were attracted to hear this informal lecture by the Assistant Director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They were not disappointed. Antje's expertise was sprinkled with interaction with the audience.

So much material was presented that the comprehensive hand-out became essential for recalling her numerous helpful websites and tips for searching even the most evasive ancestor.

An excellent historical background on German immigration included why and when our ancestors chose to leave Prussia/Germany. Multiple reasons, including displacement by wars, social conditions, and economics were the driving forces for leaving.

The first major migration peaked in the 1850s with the exodus of farmers from southeastern Germany who no longer could provide for their families.

The next cluster of immigrants, this time from the northwestern part of Germany, arrived in the 1860s and 1870s. Many were pulled to the U.S. by friends and relatives who reported opportunities in this new land. These Germans tended to be more skilled workers.

The final major group of emigrants, crafts people and skilled workers, were from the northeastern part of the German Empire. Understanding the historical context of your ancestor is as important as finding dates, family members and places.

The next task any researcher must handle is locating and accurately recording online and offline records. She stressed the importance of copying the complete page of the record as well as the source including the page, authors, and location of where you found it. Because many Germans had multiple names or nicknames, it's important to search all the variations of the name--as well as knowing both the German and English versions of the name.

Then there is the problem of the difference in German script--both printed and written. Antje suggested Ernest Thode's German-English Genealogical Dictionary for terms useful for this job. Learn common words used in records. Familysearch.org has a word list under their wiki page. <http://dict.leo.org/> is also good for single word translation.

It is vital to know the EXACT town in Europe where your ancestors came from. Start on this side of the Atlantic first! Places to look include vital records, family documents, naturalization documents, and information in German-American community papers. American censuses, ship passenger lists, and by association with neighbors in the Old World. Once the place of origin is found, find it in a gazetteer like Rudolph's Gazetteer (Max Kade Institute) or Meyer's Ortslexikon in many libraries. Various maps are also useful for historic places. Caution must be taken to assure the correct town as many German places have the same name.

American Online Sites

Go backwards! Start with AMERICAN records. The usual sources should be checked like censuses, vital records, family documents and stories. Many data bases like FamilySearch, Ancestry, Cyndi's List offer international records--often require subscription.

German-American newspapers publish obituaries, news and announcements, wills and much more! Documents from German-American communities mention social and community organizations, sing societies, Turner organizations, rifle clubs, church records, newsletters, and German clubs.

American Archives holding German-American records:

Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies:
<http://mki.wisc.edu>▲Resources, Library and Archive, Genealogy

Local historical societies and public libraries▶

- State Historical Societies:
Wisconsin Historical Society
www.wisconsinhistory.org
- Milwaukee County Historical Society:
<http://www.milwaukeehistory.net>
- Immigration History Research Center at the U. of Minnesota:
<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/>

TAKING THE SEARCH OVERSEAS

→ Go to German records only when you have established a location in Europe.

→ Start your search on the local level.

Records you may find in Europe:

- Civil registries (*Standesamt*) for vital records (mandatory after 1872)
- Church books, guild books
- *Ortsfamilienbücher* (local family heritage books)
- Military records (draft, muster roll, war taxes)
- Community censuses, population statistics, address books

- Land records, deeds, plat maps, leases (*Meierbriefe*)
- Contracts, financial, and taxation records
- Emigration and passport applications
- School records gazetteers like Rudolph's Gazetteer (Max Kade Institute) or Meyer's Ortslexikon in many libraries.
- Various maps are also useful for historic places. Caution must be taken to assure the correct town, as many German places have the same name.

Establishing Contact from the USA

Start local! Contact officials, archivists, etc. in Europe at the town level first.

Email/letter:

Find contact information online Google:

<http://www.dastelefonbuch.de/>

Write in English or have your letter translated by a fluent German speaker. Do not use an online translator to write a letter!

- Be concise. If you ask for information about an individual make sure to mention your relationship to the person. (requirement under German privacy laws).
- Offer to pay fees and postage. Be aware that: officials, archivists and pastors do you a personal favor when they answer your inquiry. Some archives will charge retrieval fees.

German Online Genealogy Sites

- German Genealogy by Andreas Hanacek [German and English]: <http://home.bawue.de/~hanacek/egene/egenepag.htm>
- Ahnenforschung [German]: <http://ahnenforschung.net>

MAKING CONNECTIONS

Genealogical societies and heritage groups in America: groups that focus on a region of origin, local settlement history and heritage.

- American Genealogical Society of Germans from Russia: <http://www.ahsgr.org/index.htm>
- German Interest Group Wisconsin (Janesville): www.gig-wi.com/index.htm
- Pommerscher Verein Freistadt, WI: <http://www.pommerscherveineinfreistadt.org/>
- Pommerscher Verein Central Wisconsin: <http://www.pvcw.org>

Publications by German-American genealogical societies:

- *German Genealogical Journal*; Germanic Genealogy Society, a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society: www.ggsmn.org
- *The Palatine Immigrant—Researching German-Speaking Ancestry*; Palatines to America: www.palam.org
- *Der Blumenbaum*; Sacramento German Genealogical Society: www.sacgergensoc.org
- Genealogy groups in Europe List: <http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/Portal:Societes> (alphabetical by name, scroll through to find the region you are looking for)
- Federation of East European Family History Societies: <http://www.feefhs.org/>

Online blogs, message boards and exchanges:

- *Ancestry.com* Message Board for Germany (subdivided by regions) <http://boards.ancestry.com/localities.cceurope.germany>

FamilySearch

<https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany>

Ahnenforschung.de Forum =

discussion board for German regional genealogy and specific topics, including transcription/translation forum.

Facebook

- Germany/Prussia Genealogy Research Group (FamilySearch)
- Private sites – research of a family name or location.

Submitted by Marguerite Sykes



The Program committee has requested that you start preparing for our December Social and Show and Tell Event. Returning due to popular demand and because of the interesting exhibits and great food, they would like you to sign up and enter your exhibits for this event. Last year's exhibits contained everything from family records to interesting photos of ancestors. Contact Donna Johnson Donna53705@aol.com and sign up early.

Jerry Apps

Will have copies of his *ONE-ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOLS* book, at our



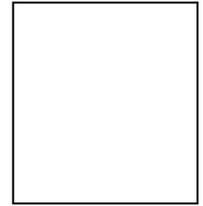
June 6th meeting. He will also have three of his most recently published books, *TAMARACK RIVER GHOST* (Historical fiction), *LIMPING THROUGH LIFE* (Memoir), and *LETTERS FROM HILLSIDE FARM* (Historical fiction). Additionally he will have copies of *BARNES OF WISCONSIN* and *OLD FARM* (newly released in paperback).

Dane County Area Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

Address Service Requested

We're on the Web!

See us at: www.dcags.org
or www.facebook.com/dcags



**Dane County Area
Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 5652
Madison, WI 53705-0652

**See you on
May 2nd**

**Become a Committee Member
One Position Open
Sign Up Today**



DCAGS Governing Board for 2012

President: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Vice President: Jim Benes
Jimbenes@iname.com

Secretary: DeAnn McAllan
d.mcallan@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Joyce Peterson
Jomay99@aol.com

Past President, Rollic Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Walker Crawford
walker@viridis.ws

Programs & Education: Donna Johnson
Donna53705@aol.com

Public Relations: Vacant

Historian: Sandy Zart
sandy_zart@yahoo.com

Web Master: Rollic Littlewood
rkittle@wisc.edu

Newsletter: Pat Skubis
skubie27@live.com

One Committee Chair position remains open. It is the public relations position.

Being a Committee Chair requires you to attend the board meetings that are held once a month.

Each of the committees could use more members. All of the committee chairs would welcome help.

Attend a board meeting and learn more about how you can participate.